

AMAZING STORY OF GERMAN EX-CONVICT WHO BAMBOOZLED PALMER

KERN'S LIFE READS LIKE ROMANCE

Valet and Nationally Known Crook Became Millionaire Promoter and Society Man.

Sudden revelations of the early career of Martin E. Kern, promoter, banker, and newspaper publisher, supply material for a story that reads like a dime novel. Kern is the man to whom A. Mitchell Palmer later a member of Woodrow Wilson's cabinet, sold the Bosch Magneto Company. Kern got it for about \$4,000,000, although it is said to have been worth a great deal more.

Palmer sold the Bosch Company to Kern after Francis P. Garvan, who succeeded Palmer as Alien Property Custodian, had reported: "I have made complete investigation into the circumstances surrounding the sale of the Bosch Magneto Company and the character of the purchaser."

Kern has served two terms in Sing Sing prison and one in the Blackwell's Island Penitentiary. His second term, that began in Sing Sing, ended in Auburn prison, to which he was transferred.

Since his release from Auburn prison in 1905, Kern has had a remarkable career. This career has made him:

A bank president.
A member of the exclusive Union League Club of Philadelphia, of golf and country clubs near Allentown, Pennsylvania.
A newspaper proprietor.
The associate of men of national prominence.

Trained by Nemesis.
In late years his steps have been dogged by a relentless Nemesis. The story of the investigation into Kern's early career has the thrills of a melodrama. No one seemed to think of connecting Martin E. Kern, who had the confidence of men like A. Mitchell Palmer and Francis P. Garvan, with Edward Kern Jr., alias Emil Brown, alias Theodore E. Mannors, graduate of Blackwell's Island, Sing Sing and Auburn.

Felix D. Unger, general manager of the Standard Investigation Bureau, of 1400 Broadway, is the Nemesis who uncovered Kern's early criminal record. He identified Kern, promoter of the Bethlehem Motors Corporation, which had a \$1,800,000 smash, as the thieving valet whose absconding in 1901, with the \$60,000 in diamonds belonging to his employer, Paul G. Thebaud, was a celebrated criminal case a generation ago.

Felix D. Unger investigated Kern on behalf of Harvey T. Andrews, who claims a 4 per cent interest in the Bosch Magneto Company.

By a strange coincidence, Rudolph Unger, a New York city detective, and brother of Felix Unger, was a keeper on Blackwell's Island and had charge of Kern when the present bank president, newspaper publisher and promoter had his first taste of American prison life.

Rudolph Unger vividly remembers Kern and has identified one of his 1921 pictures as that of his early prisoner.

Kern spent year on the island for swindling August Mayer of \$100, which Mayer had given him as a "deposit" to get a position in Kern's "real estate" office.

Here is the Martin E. Kern of today: President of the Penn Counties Trust Company, a leading banking institution of Allentown, Pa.

Owner and publisher of the Allentown Chronicle and News, an evening newspaper of 6,000 circulation.

Proprietor of the Dauber-Lieberman Brewing Company, of Allentown.

Exclusive owner of the capital stock of the great Bosch Magneto Company, a \$4,000,000 to \$5,000,000 corporation, which makes 85 per cent of the magnetos used in American motor cars.

Crony and client of A. Mitchell Palmer, late alien property custodian and Attorney General in the Cabinet of Woodrow Wilson.

The man concerning whom the following remarkable letter is on file in the office of the alien property custodian in Washington, despite the fact that the Hearst newspapers have

Garvan, U. S. Investigator, Denies Knowledge of Kern

NEW YORK, Jan. 27.—Francis P. Garvan, who was director of the bureau of investigation of the alien property custodian's office when the sale of the Bosch Magneto Company to Martin E. Kern was approved, today told a reporter that he would have nothing to say for publication at this time.

When Mr. Garvan was shown rogues' gallery pictures of Edward Kern which had been identified by many persons as Martin E. Kern, he could not recall whether he had ever seen the man.

He indicated, however, what his defense will be if he is called to testify before the Federal grand jury in Boston or a Congressional investigating committee concerning the Bosch transaction.

He will deny that he had knowledge that any member of the Hornblower-Weeks syndicate to which he sold the seized German property alleged to be worth \$7,000,000 for a little more than \$4,000,000, was a German or had a criminal record.

Further, he will assert that he acted after trusted Government agents had submitted reports to him stating that there was no reason why the Bosch plant should not be sold to the syndicate, individually or collectively. He assumed that these agents had investigated the full records of everyone concerned in the sale.

undoubted information that there are existing records that on occasion he admitted he was born in Germany and despite the fact that Government agents investigating his loyalty during the war told the postmaster of Allentown, Pa., that he had a criminal record.

Allen Property Custodian, 16th and F streets, N. W., Washington, D. C., 110 West 42d street, New York City, Jan. 27, 1932.

Joseph F. Guffey, Sales Mgr., Bureau of Sales, Office Alien Property Custodian, New York City.

Dear Sir—I have made a complete investigation into the circumstances surrounding the sale of the Bosch Magneto Company and the character of the purchaser.

I have examined the letters of Hornblower & Weeks, and those of Harry Conington, counsel for Martin E. Kern dated January 6, 1919, and in view of my investigation and the filing of these letters, I beg to recommend that the Bureau of Sales O. K. the sale to H. E. Griffiths as agent of Martin E. Kern, of Allentown, Pa.

Very truly yours, FRANCIS P. GARVAN, Director, Bureau of Investigation, FPG:GU.

We hereby approve the sale of the Bosch Magneto Company as to the purchaser.

New York, January 7, 1919. GEORGE L. INGRAHAM.

And here are some glimpses behind the curtain of Kern's early career, which supplied sensational episodes in the criminal annals of two and three decades ago:

Chapter I. A Confidence Game.

The scene is a real estate office. The real estate broker behind the desk is none other than the future friend and beneficiary of the confidence of A. Mitchell Palmer. At that time he called himself Edward Kern Jr., and also Emil Brown. His father, Edward Kern, then still alive, was associated with him.

Enter August Mayer, of whom trace has been lost. Mayer came in response to an advertisement offering employment. Kern, alias Brown, who then called himself a native of Switzerland, although in insurance policy applications he asserted he was born in 1871 in Germany, received him.

Kern told Mayer that he would have to give a deposit of \$100 to get the job. Mayer gave the money. Later the job failed to come up to expectations. Mayer complained to the police.

The scene shifted to a magistrate's court. Kern scored a technical victory. Magistrate Flammer dismissed the complaint. But Mayer was a persistent Teuton. It was another story of "when Greek meets Greek, then comes the tug-of-war."

Baffled in court, Mayer went to the District Attorney and told his story. On September 18, 1895, three months after Kern had gone free the grand jury indicted him. He was sentenced to a year in the penitentiary.

There Rudolph Unger, whose brother Felix, was later to uncover Kern's criminal career, locked him nightly in a cell.

August Mayer took his place in the story of Kern's life as the man who sent the future promoter and associate of highly placed politicians on his first trip to an American penal institution.

Chapter II. Kern, the Penman.

This is the story of how our future millionaire and potent political figure for a paltry \$96 joined the arts of the confidence man with the devices of the forger.

This narrative, dug from court and prison records by Felix D. Unger, gives the account of Kern's graduation from the Blackwell's Island Penitentiary to the State's highest penal institution, Sing Sing prison.

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Kern was later to undergo a post-graduate course in Sing Sing and to round out his American prison experiences with a finishing period in the State prison at Auburn.

It was after his graduation from Auburn that Kern blossomed forth with those diamond rings that have distinguished his appearance. As a reaction, perhaps, against the uniformity and monotony of prison attire, Kern began to wear spats and a kerchief in his outer coat pocket.

Again he grew the mustache he had sported when frequenting the tracks at New Orleans, to which he fled with Paul G. Thebaud's diamonds. There is a delicate touch of irony in the circumstances that all the executives of the Bosch Company imitated the mustache, spats, and coat pocket kerchief of Kern when he acquired from his friend, A. Mitchell Palmer, the control of that great industrial organization.

It was on September 29, 1896, in general sessions, that Judge Frank E. Fitzgerald sentenced Kern to one year's imprisonment in Sing Sing on his plea of guilty of grand larceny and forgery in the second degree.

This time Kern, who had previously proclaimed himself a native of Switzerland, announced that he was born in Germany. There is still in the court archives a letter he wrote to Judge Fitzgerald, stating his preference for a term in Sing Sing rather than to return to Blackwell's Island.

The complainant against Kern was Augustus F. Forget, then general agent of the French line of steamships. Kern had persuaded Forget to cash a \$6 check on the Twelfth Ward Bank purporting to have been drawn by one Gus Schwab to the order of a Herman Cohen.

Mrs. Ernestine Schaffner, of No. 70 West Fifth street, gave \$1,000 bail for Kern and retained him for more than a year before he pleaded guilty.

Chapter III. The Great Diamond Robbery.

In this chapter the future promoter of the Bethlehem Motors Corporation and crony of Cabinet members, acquires a new name, Theodore M. Mannors. In it he displays for the first time that taste for high life, fine stakes, the sport of kings, fine horses, the fancy dress and feminine society hitherto untried.

No longer a petty confidence man, small-time forger and passer of two-figure bogus checks, the future owner of the Allentown Chronicle breaks for the first time into the first pages of the metropolitan press as the principal figure in a great diamond robbery.

His name resounds across the country for weeks in one of the celebrated criminal cases of the opening years of the twentieth century.

Like "Count Gregory," alias "Baron Grunbaum," and other notorious criminals who have crawled into positions of wealth and social prestige for a brief day of glory, Kern assumed for

'SOUL INSPIRED' GARLAND'S LOVE, COMPANION SAYS

Lillian Conrad, Former D. C. Girl, Sees Touch of Divinity in Philosopher's Face.

The Washington Times prints today the third installment of the love philosophy of Lillian Conrad, beautiful young art student, former employee of the Labor Department here, and confessed soul mate of Charles Garland, millionaire philosopher, of North Carver, Mass.

The ideals which led her to defy convention in going to the man she loved and offering to share him with his wife are here revealed as having been inspired by the philosophies of Walt Whitman, American poet, and Socrates ancient Greek philosopher.

Lillian Conrad has returned to the Boston art school where she was a student. She declares that Garland wishes her to complete her education, and reiterates her decision to stand by her unconventional love destiny.

By KATHERINE DONOVAN.

(Copyright, 1932, by Boston Daily Advertiser.)

There came a time when the two girls, both admittedly loved by Garland, could not continue in the same community. The young wife rebelled, and ordered her husband and her rival from the once happy home.

"I left the little colony at Buzzards Bay, where I had been so happy," Lillian Conrad described. "But I did not leave it as an outcast; I was still sure of my path. It led toward Charles Garland, wherever he might choose to lead the way."

"Why has Charles Garland from the first made me feel that my life's chief duty was to serve him and to promote his soul's welfare and progress to a broader love for humanity and the beautiful things of existence?"

"Have you ever seen Hoffman's wonderful painting of Christ in the Temple? Do you recall the Jewish expression, 'His loftiest intimations? It seems that Charles' face, because of his continual search for the path leading to the highest things, has caught something of this expression."

"Perhaps it was his expression that first made me realize what he is. As I grew to know him better, I realized that the spirit within was even more beautiful."

Imagery Noticeable.
As Lillian Conrad talks of Charles Garland, her face takes on the same expression that she describes as his. It is an expression at once sincere and strong. While it betokens unusual illusions, it also has determination.

"I realize that there would be ways to evade this situation," she declared. "I could escape my responsibilities by various devices. They would be quite easy, in fact. But I have chosen to face all consequences and not to run away."

"There will be no use trying to persuade me to run away. As long as I think it right, I shall do as I am doing."

It was suggested to Lillian Conrad that she might escape the results of her action by accepting some of Garland's vast fortune and leaving the country.

Her slender form was shaken by a strange little shudder. "I could not do that," she exclaimed, and added, "Why, it seems inconceivable to me."

a time the humble chrysalis of a valet. In that mental capacity he learned to ape the manners of the wealthy and powerful which stood him in good stead in the more ambitious fields where he was to project his future schemes.

Five years after he finished his first term in Sing Sing, Kern had wormed himself, as a personal valet, into the household of Paul G. Thebaud, wealthy member of New York society. Then one fine day he disappeared with Thebaud's expensive jewelry.

The total amount of the jewelry stolen was \$67,000. About \$30,000 of it was recovered in a New York pawnshop. At the time of the robbery, the police questioned Mrs. Marie Pollon, wife of a waiter.

After a country-wide search Kern was caught in New Orleans. He still had \$15,000 of Thebaud's diamonds. He had grown a mustache, was wearing fancy clothes, and was known as a frequenter of the race track and a companion of beautiful women. He had assumed the name of Theodore E. Mannors.

When arrested, Kern stoutly denied his identity and protested that Mannors was his correct name. Thebaud went to New Orleans to identify him. But Bertillon measurements of his time beyond his release from Sing Sing in 1897 and his appearance as Thebaud's valet in 1901. It is said he spent the four years in Switzerland and Germany.

Cable advices dealing with his exploits abroad are expected soon.

VASSAR GIRL ENACTS ROLE OF MOTHER EVE



A reading of Bernard Shaw's "Back to Methuselah" was conducted in New York for the benefit of the Vassar College Endowment Fund. Leaf-costumes as worn by Adam and Eve, were adopted but with modernizations, as pictured here, by Miss Vida Sutton, as Mother Eve, and Warren Dahler, who played Adam.

able. That I should take one penny from him is an idea which seems like a nightmare.

"I realize that I could leave the country. I could go to some secluded and beautiful tropical land, or to some haven in a far-away country. But I would be running away from my problems. The problems would remain. It is better that I face them here."

"To drive free, to love free. To leap to the heavens of the love indicated to me."

Thus quoted Lillian Conrad from Walt Whitman's "Leaves of Grass," as she sat across from me at the luncheon table.

This bulky green volume is prominent on the little narrow book shelf in Lillian Conrad's modest room. The same volume occupies a place of honor in the more pretentious library of Charles Garland, at his bleak Cape Cod farm at North Carver.

"This book strikes the keynote of our love," she declared. "It is from Whitman that we have both drawn the inspiration which has driven us to follow our destiny in defiance of the world."

"Leaves of Grass" is the work of Walt Whitman, New England poet, known by some as "the good gray poet" and by others as an apostle of strange sins, a disciple of a curious creed of love.

"We both subscribe to Walt Whitman, with certain reservations," Lillian Conrad continued. "His theories, we feel, lead ultimately to the most perfect understanding of humanity. His ideals express the universal love which we feel is the highest expression of life."

Whitman spoke freely of his revolutionary doctrines, revealing his vision independent of the social code of his age.

"Does not all matter, aching, attract all matter? So the body of me to all I meet or know."

And this is the essence of Whitman, and of the Conrad Garland version of love. Lillian Conrad declares that she subscribes to this doctrine.

"We must love freely," she declares. "We must climb to whatever heights of love our souls indicate."

"If I had loved another man before I met Charles Garland I would have given him up. Charles would have represented a higher love. It would have been for me my strict duty to live up to the new revelation."

"Whitman claims that we should love as many as we attract. If he means this in a spiritual sense as well as physical it also expresses our idea. Each spiritualized affection is another step in the right direction."

Again Walt Whitman sings of a love all-embracing and yet not all-spiritual. He speaks of the love of

KERN DECLARES BROTHER IS NOT AGENT ABROAD

"Not on Speaking Terms," He Says—Also Denies Palmer Aided in Bosch Deal.

PARIS, Jan. 27.—Following a sweeping denial yesterday of the charges made before the Boston grand jury of fraud in connection with the sale of the Bosch Magneto Company, Martin E. Kern gave the following statement to Universal Service:

"My connection with the affair began during the war, when I learned that the German managers of the sequestered Bosch Magneto Company were refusing to supply the allies with magnetos."

"I thereupon used my influence with A. Mitchell Palmer, who had been my lawyer, to place Arthur T. Murray at the head of the company, which he did."

"Immediately the anti-ali policy of the Bosch company ceased."

"After the war several great financial institutions, including Hornblower & Weeks, the Chase National Bank, and the Chase Securities Company, knowing that Murray was my selection, proposed that I negotiate the refinancing of the company, to which I agreed, accepting the usual commission therefor."

"So far as any assistance I received from A. Mitchell Palmer is concerned, he put every possible obstacle in the way of our acquisition of the com-

pany. The sale was several times ad vertised and when it was finally held our agent, Griffiths, bid \$50,000 more than John Willys, acquiring the property for \$430,000."

Kern also asserted: "It is untrue that my brother Edward E. Kern, is involved in any of my affairs in the United States of has acted as my agent in Europe. I am not on speaking terms with my brother and have not seen him for many years."

TONS OF KISSES COST HIM \$1,000 IN COURT

HARRISBURG, Jan. 27.—One million tons of kisses and an additional "standpipe full of kisses" thrown in for good measure are worth just \$1,000, according to a Dauphin county jury, which ordered Constable Christ-ian Yingt, of Middletown, to pay that amount yesterday for alienating the affections of Mrs. Levi D. Rife, of Gettysburg.

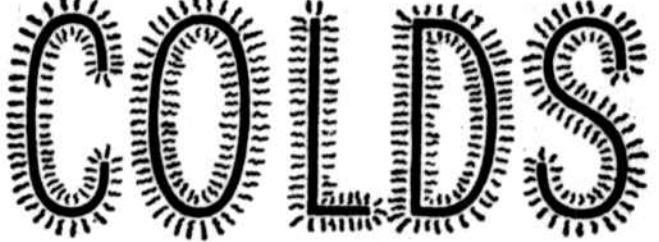
The millions of kisses were contained in letters alleged to have been written by Yingt to Mrs. Rife. And one letter to which his signature was said to be attached read: "The roses are red and the violets are blue and I have a kiss for you."

Yingt denied authorship of the letters, which caused outbursts of laughter in the courtroom, and said he only had written once to Mrs. Rife.

NEW SCHOOL SUGGESTED ON TAKOMA PARK SITE

The Senate Appropriations Committee has requested the District Commissioners to report on the advisability of erecting a new school house at Rittenhouse street and Blair road, Takoma Park.

Senator Tasker L. Odell of Nevada is sponsor of an amendment to the District appropriation bill providing for erection of an eight-room school on the site. The cost of the land and building should not exceed \$150,000, the amendment provides.



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The process of production is similar to that of our grandmothers in bread-making. They used yeast, which is nothing more or less than a combination of friendly germs.

The bacteria of buttermilk are friendly to the human system, in that they wage war on the hostile fermentation in the lower intestines and colon.

Buttermilk is, therefore, a great aid in the treatment of many ills of the digestive tract.

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Take "Pape's Diapepsin" now! In five minutes your stomach feels fine. Don't bother what upset your stomach or which portion of the food did the damage. If your stomach is sour, gassy and upset, and what you just ate has fermented into stubborn lumps; head dizzy and aches; you belch gases and acids and eructate undigested food—just take a little Pape's Diapepsin and in five minutes you wonder what became of the indigestion and distress. Millions of men and women today know that it is needless to have a bad stomach. A little Diapepsin occasionally keeps this delicate organ regulated and they eat their favorite foods without fear. If your stomach doesn't take care of your liberal limit without rebellion, if your food is a damage instead of a help, remember the quickest, surest, most harmless antacid is Pape's Diapepsin, which costs only sixty cents for a large case at drug stores.—Advertisement.